



A happy ending and a loving home for RJ

Janice and Rusty Brown of Boston are animal, and in particular, dog lovers. For them that means having a house full of dogs that they got from Greyhound Rescue, beautiful, loving animals that no one wanted because they were too old or weak to race anymore.

When the Browns stayed at the Aruba Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort two years ago, their hearts went out to a young skittish female stray that had obviously seen some abuse and was afraid of people. Rusty found that with a calm demeanor, gentle words and a bit of pepperoni pizza, he was able to conquer the dog's trepidation, and she soon became quite attached to him. In jest, they started calling her "Rusty, Jr" or "R.J." for short. R.J. is what is typically known as a "cunucu dog," cunucu meaning "countryside" in Papiamentu, a term applied to the island's classic mixed breed.

The thought of leaving R.J. behind was intolerable for the Browns, so they brought her to the Veterinary Clinic in Wayaca, where the doctor checked the dog's health, gave her rabies shots and treated her for a tick-induced anemia, then gave them certificates for the U.S. customs. For a mere \$100 and the cost of a dog carrier R.J. returned to Boston with them to find a loving home in the U.S.

Janice and Rusty were back in Aruba this week and came by the Wayaca Clinic to show off pictures of a happy, healthy R.J. enjoying a romp in the snow with her playmates and celebrating her 2nd birthday party with some pals. "She is Aruba's gift to us," states Janice, "she is a wonderfully intelligent, loyal, loving member of the family, and we just want others to know how easy and inexpensive it was to bring her back home with us." A common fear is that dogs will have to be quarantined for long periods of time, but Aruba is an island free of rabies, so taking a dog from Aruba to the states is not an issue, once it has been examined and certified by a local Veterinarian. The Browns head back to Boston on Saturday, but they had to say hi and thanks again to the people that helped them make a R.J. a part of their family.